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McManus bill expands list of illegal law-enforcement identifiers

LANSING – Legislation introduced today in the Michigan Senate would expand the list of police identifiers forbidden or restricted for civilian use under Michigan law, Sen. Michelle McManus announced.

Senate Bill 444, sponsored by McManus, would make it illegal to sell or possess the logo, service mark, patch or uniform of any Michigan law enforcement agency.

“Michigan residents should be able to trust that the law enforcement officer who pulls them over or comes to their door is legitimate and not an imposter,” McManus said. “By expanding the list of forbidden police identifiers and imposing stricter penalties on those who impersonate an officer of the law, it is my hope that we dissuade more people from attempting this crime.”

SB 444 also would impose stricter penalties on those who violate this law. Under the bill, the crime would be a 93-day misdemeanor instead of a 90-day one. This would mean violators would be required to be fingerprinted and their information entered into the Law Enforcement Information Network. LEIN tracks people and keeps a history of their criminal activity.

The bill was referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee.

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